

The UAHC Biennial

Justice And Compassion In Los Angeles

"Also on the social front, I want to introduce a resolution on the AIDS crisis. It is a resolution that summons our national leadership to deal with this illness as a top health priority, and to put a final end to that mindless discrimination to which the victims of this dread malady are subject. It is my intention, also, to appoint a national panel of experts who will be prepared to counsel our Temples and their schools on how to deal with this issue in an informed and compassionate way, consistent with the demands of public health.

The AIDS epidemic has spawned a secondary scourge as deadly as the primary affliction: a wave of hysteria whose symptoms include ostracism, prejudice, and violence. AIDS victims, already serving a death sentence, are victimized a second time: they are tormented, thrown out of jobs, often spurned by family and friends; they have been denied admission to hospitals and refused desperately needed medical services; and organizations and even families offering refuge to patients have been subjected to bomb threats and to vandalism.

It all reminds me of the bubonic plague when—so Barbara Tuchman instructs us—parents left their own children to die in the gutter for fear that they themselves would be infected. In the 14th Century, Jews were made scapegoat for the horrors of the plague. Today, homosexuality and not AIDS itself, receives the pointed finger. This shared victimization gives proof of our common humanity—and of the seamlessness of human hatred."

Thus spoke Rabbi Alexander Schindler in his Presidential Address to the 3,000 delegates to the 58th General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Los Angeles in November. His speech was one of many high points during the five day convention. It was a

CSZ Recipe Search Is On

With the fanfare of a spectacular soufflé, the CSZ Cookbook Project is officially underway—and welcomes your recipes and your participation on the staff.

The Cookbook will feature recipes and reminiscences of CSZ members which

capture the sense of warmth and familiarity we share about the cooking we enjoyed while growing up...recipes which highlight the heritage of our parents and grandparents and those that celebrate our own culinary creativity.

The preliminary project planning is in place and the Cookbook is scheduled for publication in Fall 1986. Proceeds will benefit the AIDS Food Drive and support the ongoing activities of the Congregation.

Several exciting staff positions—from Recipe Testers to Copy Editors to Wholesale Sales Directors—are still available. Peruse the Job Sign-up Notebook at the Synagogue (or call Chief Editor Susan Unger at 552-3141) and join the team.

Just think, if you're home over the winter holidays and conversation starts to lag, you'll have lots to talk about. To immortalize your mother's matzo-balls, fill out the recipe form included with this *Forward* and return it to the Synagogue office. If you need more forms, they're readily available in the office or feel free to duplicate or just use plain paper but follow the general format of the form. Bon Appétit!



Cookbook project leader Susan Unger whips up a matzo soufflé.

time of historic firsts, a time when decisions were made which will have a profound affect on Jews and non-Jews alike.

The first day, Thursday, was devoted to education. Delegates attended study sessions with the best of the faculty of the Los Angeles branch of the Hebrew Union College.

The teaching of the rabbis was wonderful, but rabbis have been teaching Torah for generations. That's not new. What happened on Friday was indeed new. At 10:00 a.m., a hundred people crowded into a too-small room to talk about Judaism and homosexuality—the first such seminar in the history of UAHC Biennials. The session was called "Toward a Greater Understanding of our Gay and Lesbian Brothers and Sisters." The

panelists included Rabbi Robert Kirschner of Temple Emanu-El, Ms. Adele Starr, founder and president of Parents and Friends of Gays organization, and myself. During the questions and answer period all the Sha'ar Zahav delegation—Betty Kalis, Don Albert, Leslie Bergson, and Rabbi Kahn—had an opportunity to speak, so did many members of our sibling congregations in Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver and Miami. And so did many others, including lesbian comedienne Robin Tyler, who came to thank the Reform movement for making it possible for her to organize two feminist conferences at Reform Camp Coleman in Georgia.

(Continued on page 11)

President's Column

Happy belated Thanksgiving to each of you. It's been several weeks since I returned from the memorable UAHC Biennial Assembly. Our delegation consisted of Leslie Bergson, Betty Kalis, Rabbi Kahn, Mike Rankin and myself. All of us worked hard to see that people knew about Sha'ar Zahav and our AIDS resolution. Elsewhere in *The Forward* is Mike Rankin's full report. I would just like to mention a few items.

First: a mazel tov to Mike on the success of his workshop on "Understanding Our Gay and Lesbian Brothers and Sisters." Also, for his work on the Biennial Program Committee. With Mike involved in UAHC, we will always be well represented.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the AIDS resolution drafting: Richard Inlander, Bruce Katz, Ron Lezell, and Mike Rankin.

One aspect of the Biennial that impressed me was the openness with which we were treated by other delegates. There was a sincere interest in our activities and our contribution to the Reform Movement. There was a particular rapport which developed between ourselves and the delegates from our sibling UAHC congregations. They added a measure of "mishpacha" to the overall experience.

At our semi-annual congregational meeting, I mentioned a Biennial item which deserves our attention. It is the increasing danger we face as Jews and as gays/lesbians from the fundamental Christian right. There are those in our nation who see no room for people who do not subscribe to the Christian right's concepts of spirituality and morality. They are applying their standards to the conduct of government as well as our private lives.

One organization is dedicated to exposing this movement: People for the

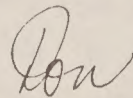
American Way, founded by TV producer Norman Lear. They have the support of responsible religious and civil leaders. I think that they deserve our support and I urge you to contact them, ask for information and if you are so inclined, join with them:

People for the American Way
1424 16th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Back on the home front... We are so lucky that Sha'ar Zahav is comprised of so many wonderful volunteers. Susan Unger is one of them. We all need to support her committee and its efforts to develop a congregational cookbook. This is an effort which will benefit the AIDS Food Project and our synagogue. This is an excellent example of how Sha'ar Zahav can provide opportunities for people to work together and build new friendships at the same time. Another opportunity is to join our V.P., Leslie Bergson, in the reorganization of the Bikkur Cholim Committee. What a fine way to provide personal support to those in need, both in and out of our congregation.

It's up to you... look at the projects, events and committees we have and join in. If someone forgot to ask you, tap me on the shoulder and let me know you'd like to help.

Happy Chanukah,



Oneg Sponsors

During the month of October, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

October 4—Steven Rosenberg & Keith Barton sponsored and prepared the Oneg in honor of Steve's mother.

October 11—David Shaber, to mark the beginning of his third year as a part of CSZ.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Richard Inlander, Irene Ogus and Alita Rosenfeld (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by Artspec Imaging Ltd.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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Happy Chanukah
Ralph Frischman
Thank you for the friendship
and the brightness you
have added to my life.
David

Dear Santa -
Have joined Sha'ar Zahav
Please forward all packages
by December 7 to Cafe Latke
Love
Timmy

Lights, Latkes, and Laughs

Before you read any further, mark on your calendar the evening of Saturday, December 7th. Beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the San Francisco Medical Society Building, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will hold a Chanukah Party not to be forgotten. The room will be transformed into a cabaret setting where dancing, entertainment and food, deep-dish latkes, will be provided. In addition, there will be a congregational menorah lighting ceremony so be sure to bring your menorah and candles. Raffle prizes will be drawn which include a week in Hawaii for two, a cabin at the River for a week, a weekend at DeHaven Valley Farm in Mendocino, a weekend at Wildwood Ranch, a night at the Meridien Hotel, plus many other exciting prizes. Increase your chances of winning these wonderful prizes; buy more tickets or give a friend an opportunity—sell them tickets. The tickets cost \$2 each or buy a book of six for \$10.

Don't forget—December 7th—250 Masonic. Admission is \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members.



Chanukah Planning Committee members Jay Feinstein and Shirley Liberman

Chanukah
"Hugs and Kisses"
to you all,
The Bylaw Review Committee

Happy Chanukah to the Members and Friends
of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Rabbi Yoel Kahn
President Don Albert

Happy Chanukah Mike Rankin
Your soul shines as brightly
as all the lights of
Chanukah.
David

Chappy Chanukah
Love,
David and Alex

Happy Chanukah to
Our Friends
at Sha'ar Zahav
Bob Goldware and
Jay Feinstein

CHEERS!
Allan, Matt & Justin

Chanukah greetings
from
Betty Kalis
and Marion Trentman

Happy Chanukah,
Jon
XXXXX
John

May the flames of your Chanukah candles
pirouette across your Menorah
and make you very happy.
When words alone are not enough...
Newsletter Committee

To my dearest lover,
Deborah,
All my love during this
festival of lights,
Prudence

High Holy Day Contributors

The following is a partial list of those who responded to our High Holy Day appeal. The names of additional contributors will appear in the January *Forward*. Our thanks to all.

Mark Abrahams
Sharon Abramowitz
& Naomi Rosenthal
Donald Abrams
Deborah Agre
Donald Albert
Lynn Allen
George Ash
Lucia Kim August

Lawney Baldwin
Naomi Baran
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Craig Davidson
Donald Dodge
 & Jerome Singer
Mark Drusin
Jeanne DuBois
Eileen Dunn

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Seymour Hertzberg
Kim Hettena
Robert & Doris Hirsch
Ilene Hochstein
Phyllis Hoffman
Ruth Hurvitz
Jenny Hurwitz
Dolores Portugal Huth

Cindy Icke
& Diane Sabin
Alex Ingersoll
& David Stein
Eleanor Isaacson
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& Marion Trentman
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David Kirp
Judith Klain
Kim Klausner
& Debra Chasnoff
Cynthia Kleinfeld
Ellen Kugler
Ida Kuluk
Jo Kuney
Celia Kupferman
Martin Kupferman

Robert Lager
Deborah Landowne
Margaret Langham
 & Anne Winters
Janet Larson
Joseph Lawson
Jordan Lee
Lewis Lehman
Jack Leister
Yehuda Lev
 & Rosmarie Pegueros-Lev
Ed Leven
Carole Levine
David Levine
Nate Levine
Ellen Lewin
Ron Lewis
Jeffrey Levy
Ron Lezell
Simma Lieberman
Alan Linder
Marc Lipschutz
Alison Loebel
Sandra Lofchie
Merry Luskin

Donna Maimes
Stan Mandell
Paul Margolis

Patrick Margolit
Rebecca Mark
Michael McCormick
Joan Meisel
Nancy Meyer
& Marilyn O'Keeffe
Robert Michael
Linda Michels
Barry Miguel
Pam Miller
Julie Moed
Elena Moser
Susan Musicant

Charlene Nason
Wendy Oberlander
Irene Ogun
Cheryl Orvis
Ellen Oppenheimer
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William Osofsky
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Bernard Pechter
Mary Sue Philp
Matile Poor
Michele Popiel
Ora Prochovnick

Nina Raff
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Unusual Holocaust Art at Magnes

The work of Swedish artist Lenke Rothman is featured at the Judah L. Magnes Museum right now. A survivor of Bergen-Belsen, Rothman uses multi-media materials such as cloth and buttons in her art creating unique expressions of Jewish themes. Her images are not those typically associated with Holocaust art. Rather than depicting the stark horror of events, they evoke the beauty that was lost.

The exhibit runs through February 2, 1986. For more information call 849-2710.

Beyond Identity

Herb Caen reported that the first Christmas song was played on the radio on Oct. 30th. Actually, the season began long before this—my first catalog with Santa cradling a VCR on the cover arrived the day after Yom Kippur. Now at the beginning of December, the Xmas hype assaults us everywhere—especially from the inescapable Muzak in the elevator. The Jewish response to all this is usually a strategic withdrawal behind the Chanukah Menorah. Lights? We have a Festival of Lights. Gifts? We have eight days' worth. Music? Surely "Rock of Ages" beats "Rudolph!"

Maybe. But honestly, there is no comparison. Christmas is the highlight of the Christian year. Even for those who are marginally Christian, it is the single holiday they celebrate. Chanukah is not a High Holiday, or even an official Festival. In the Jewish calendar, it is a second-string holiday, though still plenty of fun. The main difference between Christmas and Chanukah is that Christmas is a celebration of *something* while Chanukah is, by and large, a celebration of itself. Against the overwhelming impact of Christmas in our Christian-dominated culture, we proudly and defiantly celebrate Chanukah and its customs. The message of Chanukah is portrayed as the preservation of a distinct Jewish identity in the face of cultural imperialism. The ancient message of Chanukah, the preservation of Jewish identity in the face of assimilation, portends the meaning of Chanukah in our own day.

The American Jewish community is obsessed, I believe, with identity. It is our number one topic of self-conscious worry. Recently, in conjunction with the UAHC Biennial, I suffered through yet another survey investigating how I see my identity, what its sources are, and how I would wish it strengthened. Jewish youth and students spend a disproportionate amount of time being taught to identify, having their identity reinforced and struggling with the meaning of their identity—all in the name of Jewish survival. But the future of Judaism does not depend on encouraging self-conscious identification but instead turns on the cultivation and deepening of meaningful Jewish lives.

The Hasmonean revolt was not simply a question of assimilation vs. Judaism. It involved much more complicated issues

of authority in the Jewish community, the quality of Jewish life and issues of national loyalty and treason. The Maccabees' rededication of the Temple was only the first step towards the re-establishment of an independent Jewish Commonwealth in Judea fifteen years later. Chanukah is not just a holiday or identification and dedication—it is a holiday dedicated to particular values and ideals. Too often, we are asked to identify with Jewish values, without knowing what they are. Commitment cannot stand in a vacuum—it can only be nourished when it leads towards values of enduring worth.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained eight new members in November. A warm welcome to new members:

Jody Adelberg
Marilyn Kalman
Mark Landsberger
Stan Osofsky
Ruth Schoenbach
Jonathan Schwartz
Kathy Sharp
Robert Simon

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

A Chanukah Mitzvah

The Bikkur Cholim Committee will sponsor a Chanukah visit to elderly Jews in local nursing homes on Sunday, December 8th. It means taking a couple of hours of your Sunday, and spending it with a person who doesn't get to talk to other Jews very often. It means bringing some cookies, lighting the menorah, and staying to chat for a while. You will come out of the experience with a new way of looking at things, some new information, and perhaps a new friend—a foster bubbe or zayde. If you have any questions, either about the Chanukah visit or Bikkur Cholim Committee, please call me at 552-0256, or leave a message at the Synagogue office.

—Leslie Bergson

Chanukah Chazarai

The rabbis debated whether one should light all the candles of the menorah on the first night, and decrease by one candle each night (thereby symbolizing the diminishing oil) or to light one candle the first night, two the second, etc. The ruling was made that we add a candle each night because "we should only increase—and never decrease—in holiness."

- Unlike the Shabbat candles, the lights of the Chanukah candles are not to be used for practical purposes such as reading. Theirs is a "spiritual light" which adds a different quality to the room.
- The word "menorah" is a generic Hebrew word for candelabra. The correct name for a Chanukah menorah is "Chanukiah" (cha-noo-key-yah).
- The Chanukiah can be placed in a window to be seen by people passing on the street.
- In Israel, the dreidl has different letters on it than in the diaspora. While our dreidls stand for "a Great Miracle Happened There," in Israel the dreidls read "Happened Here."
- There are more variations in the spelling of this holiday than any other in the Jewish year.

—From the Ritual Committee

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Congregational Meeting

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav held its semi-annual meeting on Sunday afternoon, November 10, at the shul, with many members, both new and "seasoned," in attendance. Rabbi Kahn set the tone for the meeting with his D'var Torah, based on the previous week's portion, "The Life of Sarah." He reminded us how special our synagogue is—a place for us to stay in continuity with our ancestors.

The Bylaws Committee, headed by David Gass, presented the only item requiring a congregational vote, and those assembled overwhelmingly approved a new bylaw establishing a standing Personnel Committee and setting forth its duties which include development of personnel policies and evaluation of performance.

The balance of the meeting consisted of reports from the President, Treasurer, Rabbi, and Administrator, as well as from each of our committees.

Don Albert's President's report included a recap of the many and varied activities of the congregation and a discussion of how beautifully Rabbi Kahn is being integrated into our synagogue.

The Treasurer's quarterly report by Betty Kalis stressed the need for all of us to carefully monitor expenditures and to attempt to increase revenue. Betty noted that response to the High Holy Day

pitches has been gratifying when compared to previous years, but that many of those attending services did not contribute.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn reviewed his activities during his first few months with us and encouraged members to become more active in ritual activities such as leading services.

Administrator Marilyn Hertzberg pointed out that the increase in staff has enabled the congregation's leaders to focus their energies in new areas of development for the synagogue. Also, acquisition of new office equipment has increased the speed with which information flow can be processed through the office.

David Gellman, Building Committee chair, reported on progress with plans for basic improvements of the upstairs office/library area, and on establishment of the Fine Arts Advisory Committee, the fruit of whose labor will soon become visible through the building. Education Night series and a review of upcoming lectures was the main focus of chair Paul Cohen's Education Committee report. Don reported that the Finance Committee (presently chairless) is continuing its regular activities of budget review, evaluation of financial questions, and assisting in dues solicitation and collection. Don also reported on the regrouping and reorganiza-

tion of the Membership Committee.

Alex Ingersoll (Mr. *Forward*) was pleased to report that the Newsletter Committee, formerly handled almost solo, now has 13 very active and dedicated members, who meet, in various combinations 5 times each month to bring you what is probably the finest temple bulletin on the planet, with an average monthly circulation of over 1,000.

Daniel Chesir, chair of the Ritual Committee, reported that an outstanding working relationship has been established with Rabbi Kahn, who has revitalized the work of the committee. A major emphasis in the coming year will be on strengthening the musical component of our services. Chair of Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky, summarized the ongoing efforts of her committee to keep Sha'ar Zahav in the public eye. Press releases, advertisements, interviews with the rabbi are just a few of the aspects of the work of this dedicated committee.

A growing number of members are participating in Social Action, according to Chair Ron Lezell. The committee's major accomplishment since our last meeting is the establishment of criteria for evaluation of issues and possible action related to them. Just a few of the other activities

(Continued on page 8)



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DECEMBER

כסלו - טבת

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 Kislev 1	19 2	20 3	21 4	22 5	23 6	24 7
	Educ. Night 7:30pm		Educ. Comm. 7pm	Newsletter Comm. 7pm 330 Collingwood	Services 8:15pm	1st Chanukah Candle Chanukah Party 8-12pm 250 Masonic
25 8	26 9	27 10	28 11	29 12	1 Tevet 13	2 14
2 Candles Bikkur Cholim Home Visits	3 Candles Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	4 Candles	5 Candles Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	6 Candles Social Action 7pm	Rosh Chodesh 7 Candles Services 8:15pm	8 Candles
3 15	4 16	5 17	6 18	7 19	8 20	9 21
	Educ. Night 7:30pm				Services 8:15pm	
10 22	11 23	12 24	13 25	14 26	15 27	16 28
	Educ. Night 7:30pm			Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr	Services 8:15pm	Morning Services 10:30am Educ. Siyyum & Potluck 5pm
17 29	18 30	19 31	Let's join together on December 7th at the Sha'ar Zahav Chanukah Party as a family of friends Chanukah Party Committee			

Ritual Calendar

Friday, December 6

Parshah: Va-Yeshev, Gen. 37:1-40:23

Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, December 13

Shabbat Chanukah

Parshah: Miketz, Gen. 41:1-44:17;

for Chanukah, Num. 7:48-53

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Ritual Committee & Friends,
Services

Friday, December 20

Parshah: Va-Yigash, Gen.

44:18-47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, December 27

Parshah: Va-Yech, Gen. 47:28-50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12

Mike Rankin, Services

Saturday, December 28

Shabbat Morning Services, 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Garry

Koenigsberg, Services

January Preview

Friday, January 3

Parshah: Shemot, Ex. 1:1-6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 26:6-28, 29:22-23

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Letters

We want to share with you this beautiful letter we received from one of our High Holy Day contributors:

On Yom Kippur I attended your Kol Nidre service. This was the first time in 22 years that I attended synagogue for a worship service.

Aside from the beauty of the service (music, etc.) I felt something stir in me that I thought I never had. I rejected my Judaism because I never felt that I belonged to the community.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to know that there is a place for me. Knowing you are there is a great comfort.

I hope this gift ensures in some small way your continued survival.

Sincerely, Stan Mandell

Behind the Scenes

Even though the High Holidays are past, there were still many tasks in November that needed completing as a result of the holidays. Don Gordon, Tal-or Bar Shank, Eli Weinstein, Jobe Lawson, Mirtha Beal and David Wasserman were all able to provide their time to make sure that all of our holiday contributors were acknowledged. Alita Rosenfeld added many new names to our newsletter's mailing list. David Gass processed the welcome letters to our many new members.

Irene Ogus, Rosalinda del Moral and Susan Greenspan made sure that all of the women in the congregation were aware of the Women's Havurah Havdalah and Hot Tub potluck.

Jay Feinstein has taken over the responsibility for making sure that the food donations we receive are moved to the AIDS Foundation, and he helped to store the Yom Kippur machzors away for yet another year.

Thank you for your help, one and all.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

General Fund

Sarah Hannaford in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Shirley Liberman in memory of Rabbi Ben Joan Heinsheimer
 Irene Ogus in memory of Albert Stein, David Stein's father
 R.D. Rosenberg
 Alex Ingersoll and David Stein in honor of Joshua Rose, Jill Rose and Annie Kennedy's new son
 Mack Mackler in honor of Ingu Yun's birthday
 Ruth Feinstein in memory of her husband, Hyman
 Jay Feinstein in memory of his father, Hyman
 Harry and Donnalee Leuhrs in memory of Albert Stein
 Allan Berenstein for the Congregation—for all it gives to him.

Education Fund

Steven Elman in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 William Goldstein in memory of Joseph Goldstein
 Sharyn Saslafsky in memory of Albert Stein

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Cheryl Orvis in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Mike Rankin in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus and Albert Stein

Prayerbook Fund

Sharyn Saslafsky in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Stephanie Hannaford in honor of the Ritual Committee for their infusion of spirituality and warmth in the High Holiday Services
 Gordon Osser in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus

Building Fund

Stephanie Hannaford in memory of Albert Stein
 Catherine Wisniewski and Leila Raim in memory of Albert Stein and Rabbi Ben Marcus, and in honor of Cheryl Orvis
 Gordon Osser in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mark Mendelow in memory of of Albert Stein
 Rob Tat in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Tom Yazman in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Marion Trentman and Betty Kalis in honor of Jane Stone and Pro Provan's anniversary
 Stephanie Hannaford because she had the pleasure of working with Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Allan Berenstein in honor of Rabbi Kahn's birthday
 Alvin Baum in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
 Craig Davidson in memory of his grandmother, Anna Davidson

Social Action Fund

Mervyn Silverman

Phooey on AIDS Fund

David Stein and Alex Ingersoll
 Allan Berenstein in honor of his very special family—Alex, David, Sharyn and Frank

Torah Fund

Allan Berenstein in honor of his father's *yahrzeit*
 Don Albert in honor of the birth of a baby to Jill and Annie, Eric and Aaron's new house, and to wish Cheryl Orvis a speedy recovery
 Marilyn Herzberg in honor of her father's visit during the holidays and in appreciation to all those who contributed their time and money during the holidays

Library Fund

Jonathan Funk in honor of Joshua Kennedy Rose
 Steve Elman in memory of Albert Stein
 Don Albert belated thanks to Lenny Brill for coordinating the High Holiday Onegs with Shelley Spiro

Gifts to the Congregation

Don Albert donated a telephone answering machine for Rabbi Kahn's use
 Jerry Rosenstein donated a large cupboard and small refrigerator for the synagogue's use

Congregational Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

on which Ron reported are our ongoing support of the S.F. AIDS Foundation's food and household goods drive, and our monthly participation in the daily vigil at the Soviet Consulate. Shirley Liberman's Social Programming Committee report focused on the upcoming Chanukah Party & Raffle and discussed the possibility of having more social events throughout the year.

Allyce Kimerling reported that the Women's Havurah is alive and well and has had several successful functions. The Havurah is particularly proud of its accomplishment in coordinating High Holy Day childcare and suggests that other interested members take part in this worthwhile activity.

Vice President Leslie Bergson is coordinating the Bikkur Cholim committee since the death of our beloved Rabbi Ben Marcus. The committee is planning Chanukah visits to Jewish patients in nursing homes. Leslie stressed that each one of us is a member of Bikkur Cholim; we each must accept the responsibility of becoming an active participant in the caring community.

The meeting closed with the traditional Oseh Shalom.

—Richard Inlander, Recorder

Birthdays

- 1 Yoram Gal
- 2 Thomas Yazman
- 4 Alan Schrager
- 8 George Lucas
- 10 Sonia Douglass
- 11 Abraham Cohen
- 12 Ralph Frischman
- 12 Bill Goldstein
- 12 Walt Leiss
- 14 Jill Rose
- 15 Ron Lezell
- 19 Don Albert
- 19 David Shaber
- 24 Ellen Kugler
- 25 G. Murray Miller
- 30 Michal Abts
- 30 Leslie Bergson
- 30 Michael Chreisman
- 31 Sam Thal

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Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met, as is its custom, on the second Monday of the month (November 11) in the Oneg Room at 6:30 p.m. We began with a moment of silent meditation for our member and friend, Cheryl Orvis, wishing her a speedy and complete recovery.

President Don Albert's report included a suggestion that the possibility of establishing a Gift Shop be explored for fundraising purposes. David Gass expressed interest in the idea as a potential project for the soon-to-be-revitalized Brotherhood. Don announced that the lesbian and gay community of San Francisco has received a bequest of a valuable Jewish library and that the library subcommittee of the Education Committee is exploring the manner in which it will be shared with our sibling congregation Ahavat Shalom.

Treasurer Betty Kalis was pleased to report that synagogue finances are looking up, and Jerry Rosenstein of the Finance Committee reported that dues pledges and collections are ahead of previous projections.

Dustyn Duncan, on behalf of the Membership Committee, presented the names of eight new members, who were unanimously approved by the Board.

The Va'ad reiterated its support for the Cookbook Project and approved establishment of a sinking fund to assist it in its early stages. Public Relations chair Sharyn Saslafsky noted that two interviews with Rabbi Kahn will be appearing shortly in the local press—one in the December *Coming Up*, and the other in a late November issue of the *Jewish Bulletin*.

In an effort to keep the length of the Va'ad meeting within reason, Don initiated an experiment, giving Vice President Leslie Bergson and Recorder Richard Inlander the roles of coordinator and having them present brief reports from some of the committees. The meeting, in fact, ended in record time, and variations on this approach will be tried at future meetings, giving committee chairs the opportunity to present reports when they find it appropriate or necessary.

We closed with the traditional spirited meeting evaluation and Oseh Shalom.

Please remember that all members of the Congregation are welcome to attend Va'ad meetings and participate in discussion. Your input is valued by your elected representatives. See you December 9th.

—Richard Inlander, Recorder

Anniversaries

- 9 Yolande Schneeman and Lori C.
- 9 Jill Rose and Annie Kennedy
- 14 Shelley Spiro and Gabrielle Kassner

Sibling Notes

Chicago: Or Chadash noted that its membership rolls had recently surpassed 100 with the addition of 20 new members. Plans are underway for a number of special events including a 10th Anniversary dinner in February.

Cleveland: Chevrei Tikva celebrated its second anniversary in November.

Farmingdale, LI, NY: Beth Chai reported on its successful consecration ceremony and thanked CSZ "for a beautiful letter, a donation, a collection of their prayer-books, and their love."

Seattle: Tikvah Chadashah was recently accepted as a member of the local Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council and plans to take an active role in its education and social action programs.

High Holy Day Contributions (Continued from page 4)

Judith Rosenberg
& Gregory Andreas
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Rosenfeld
Gerald Rosenstein
Wendy Roudner

Barry Saiff
Laurie Salen
Shelley Samuels
Esther Saslafsky
Jennie Schacht
Benjamin Schalit
Dennis Schary
Juliette Schlesinger
Amy Schlifman
Yolande Schneeman
Ruth Schoenbach
Cynthia Schorr
& Joyce Amburgey
Dara Schur
Jonathan Schwartz
Susan Schwartz
William T. Schwimmer
& Valerie Stoll Schwimmer
Leah Seidler
Dan Serbin
David Shaber

Susan Shalit
Harley Shapiro
John Sholom
Jeffrey Shuman
Philip Siegel
Phyllis Siegel
Fred Silverman
Miriam Simos
& Gweneth Anne Dietrich

Bertha Simos
Pamela Singer
James & Bobbe Sue Skiles
Phylece Snyder
Charles A. Solomon
Martin Spector
Steven J. Spielberg
Patricia Stamm
Ellen Starkman
Ailsa Steckel
Francine Stein
Maxine Stein
& Daniel Lobovits
Jay Stone
Judy Stone
Sylvia & Jeffrey Straus
Steven Strickberger
Beth S. & Ellen B.

Rob Tat
Sam Thal
Carol Tuttle

Stuart Useem

Don Wagner
Cantor George &
Esther Wald
Stephen Walters
Jeff Wein
Allen Weinberg
Leonard Weinberg
Patty Weinstein
Arlene Weissman
Ruth Weisz
Amy Weston
Gail & Michael Whitty
Corinne Sue Wick
Sue Carol Witt
Marta Wohl
Paul Wotman
Nina Wouk
& Pam McDaniel

Natalie Zarchin
Sue Zemel
Richard Zneimer
Barbara Zoloth



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So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Since Chanukah is coming up, I have been polishing my lovely electric menorah; but my lover (who never usually seems very religious) started screaming at me that we have to use a "real" one, with candles. They will melt the Levelors! Please help.

Challenged in Church Street Gardens

Dear Challenged,

For this, you will have to pay Aunt Yente overtime. First she needs to talk about orthodox halacha, then the reform viewpoint, then *shalom bayis*, and finally the wholesale price of levelors. (Aunt Yente isn't really sure what levelors are, but they usually get a laugh when she puts them in her column. She herself prefers a more traditional window dressing, like Thousand Island.)

So you can use an electric Chanukah menorah? Orthodox halacha says no. Since the menorah we light on Chanukah is meant to recall the menorah in the temple, which burned olive oil, an olive flame is best. But also you can use other oil, or candles too, because they have, *eppes*, a "clear" flame. (Aunt Yente doesn't know what this means either.) But that halacha does not permit using torches, multi-wicked candles, or of course, electricity.

Logically, this is hard to justify. If we want to be like the temple, then we should burn only olive oil. On the other hand, if we can substitute a candle flame for an oil flame, so why not an electric flame? (Please don't write your Aunt Yente telling her that electricity is not a flame. As the Satmar Rebbe pointed out, in not permitting electric lights to be used on Shabbos, "*Nebbech*, the halacha from photon emission in visible wavelengths from an

emitter excited to incandescence is *takke* not dependent on the presence of actual molecular oxidation." Or as Aunt Yente's Uncle Chremsel used to say, when he would trip over the coffee table in the dark on Friday nights (after making kiddush several times), "If you don't think electricity is flame, go stick your finger in a light socket."

But frankly, in her own house Aunt Yente is as likely to choose an electric menorah as she is to put sprouts into her potato latkes. Even if logically the electric seems fine, the feeling is for her entirely wrong. A candle is special, it has a special glow; it's *yuntufdik*; it makes Aunt Yente think of the temple and the ancient battles, the miracle of a small shining hope prevailing against the darkest hours of winter. A light bulb makes Aunt Yente think of Sears.

But you know what? This is only how Aunt Yente feels. How do you feel? What did your parents use as a menorah, and what will make Chanukah for you? The *leveloralkes* shouldn't enter into it; so if they catch fire, you'll put in a nice greenhouse window. But more important than the levelors is what you need for the holiday. And of course what your lover needs. Did Aunt Yente tell you that it is *very frumm* for each person in the household to have their own Chanukah menorah? Is there maybe on the windowsill room for two?

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114.

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Yahrzeits

- 5 Charles Staub, Grandfather of Wendy Weiss
- 9 Frieda Shaber, Mother of David Shaber
- 10 David Abbuehl, Cousin of Abigail Abbuehl
- 10 Sherman Kalis, Brother of Betty Kalis
- 13 Barbara Mendelow, Sister of Mark Mendelow
- 14 Paula Kallman Meyer, Grandmother of Nancy Meyer
- 14 Meyer Paker, Brother of Perry Paker
- 16 David Goldware, Grandfather of Robert Goldware
- 17 Nancy Ponch, Friend of Michal Abts
- 18 Robert H., Father of Devorah H.
- 18 (6 Teveth) Bayla (bat Ephraim Ha-Cohen) Schneidman, Sister of Daniel Chesir
- 18 Reuben Ritz, Stepfather of Barry Siegel
- 20 Lillian Dolinsky, Grandmother of Naomi Baran
- 20 Norman David Kramer, Member of CSZ
- 20 Alfred Simon, Brother of Robert Simon
- 20 Theodore and Valentine Simon, Parents of Robert Simon
- 20 Fred M. Weiss, Grandfather of Wendy Weiss
- 23 Harold Berger, Father of Don Berger
- 23 Aaron H., Grandfather of Devorah H.
- 24 Reinhold Tolge, Grandfather of Diana Buchbinder
- 25 A. Martin Lipschutz, Father of Marc Lipschutz
- 27 Lillian Helen Abbuehl, Grandmother of Abigail Abbuehl
- 28 (16 Teveth) Seymour Newman, Uncle of Laurie Radovsky
- 30 Leah Meyers, Aunt of Devorah H.
- 31 Sam Kimerling, Grandfather of Allyce Kimerling

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Attorney

David R. Gellman
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It was a moving time for us all. Rabbis, cantors, parents and colleagues, spouses—all spoke of their attempts to reach out to gay people close to them. A number of gay rabbis and cantors and other gay women and men attended the session and remained silent, only to seek us out later and describe their need for support and reassurance as they decided whether or not to come out. We took some of them to services at the Los Angeles "gay-outreach" congregation on Friday night, and what a liberating experience it was for them! We made a joyful noise at B.C.C. that night (all the attendees from sibling congregations were given honors during the Torah service) and no one sang more from the heart than our new friends.

Saturday morning. Services began at 8:30 a.m., and by the time Rabbi Schindler rose to give his powerful and challenging presidential address, the room was filled with nearly 3,000 people. He included a passionate endorsement of our AIDS resolution which didn't surprise us. We already knew he was going to do that. What surprised and delighted us was that when he came to that part of his speech, the congregation broke into prolonged applause! We knew at that point our resolution was sure to pass. The Jews in that room were acting, well, like Jews. How sweet it was!

Saturday afternoon was for Torah study and spirituality, a time to come together to examine the meaning of God and prayer in our lives. Reform Judaism has been accused of turning away from the sacred, of being interested only in social action issues. If that was a valid statement in the past, it seems to be less valid now. Reform Jews, assuming those at Biennial were fairly typical, are once again talking about the transcendent, about prayer and

spirituality—about God. I was surprised at how many were wearing kippot, how many had talisim at services, and how many keep at least a partial kashrut. Whether this really reflects a deepening spirituality, or simply a human response and human need in this age of anxiety, remains to be seen.

Sunday and Monday were Social Action days. Delegates voted on strong resolutions condemning apartheid and favoring sanctuary for refugees from right-wing dictatorships as well as left-wing dictatorships. They renewed their support for the Jews of Ethiopia, both those now in Israel and those left behind. They voted support for Reform Day Schools while restating the long held opinion that public schools are an essential part of a pluralistic America. They also voted a message to the radical right rabbis in Israel that Reform and Conservative Jews must have the same rights as the Orthodox in the Jewish state.

Late Monday afternoon they voted on our AIDS resolution in its final form. The resolution we submitted was a good one, but it lacked one important element—an advisory committee to work with the UAHC to develop educational materials and a speaker's bureau for the congregations. This was added by Rabbi Schindler and was included in the resolution presented to the delegates.

The Sha'ar Zahav delegation had lobbied long and hard during the days preceding the vote. We were far from alone, however. Not only did our friends from sibling congregations join us—so did many others from Northern California. And so did those who, until the Friday morning seminar, had never done a thing on behalf of the rights of gay people. What a way to start!

Remember

to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Resolution after resolution was discussed and debated, endlessly it seemed. Would they never get to ours? People were leaving, including some of our supporters. But then the vote came, and it was—*Unanimous!* The largest Jewish organization in the world, probably the most influential, had committed itself to lobby for increased funding for AIDS treatment and research, and for meaningful education on AIDS—without a dissenting vote! God willing, other religious denominations will follow our lead, and we'll get whatever funding it takes to end this tragic disease.

That's the way it was in Los Angeles, folks. There have been many times in my life when I've been proud to be a Jew—but maybe never so much as those five days in November!

—Mike Rankin

P.S. Tapes of all the sessions, including ours, may be ordered. Order forms are on the back table in the sanctuary, or you can call Marilyn at the office and she will send you one.

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220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 861-6932

Officers:

President, Don Albert
Vice President, Leslie Bergson
Treasurer, Betty Kalis
Recorder, Richard Inlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Shirley Liberman
Irene Ogus
Cheryl Orvis
Mike Rankin
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Rabbi: Yoel Kahn. Please contact the Synagogue Office to make an appointment.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Paul Cohen
Finance, by committee
Membership, Bob Berkowitz
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Allyce Kimerling

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Member: Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Education Update

A Musical Siyyum

The conclusion of our fall term of classes will be celebrated at a festive *siyyum* on Saturday, December 28th, at 5 p.m. at the synagogue. A *siyyum* is a festive meal which marks the completion of a period of study. The members of the "Jewish Life Through Music" class will lead us in Shabbat hymns and a special Havdalah service. A dairy pot-luck supper will follow. The members of the various fall classes, people interested in our winter classes and everyone else is cordially invited to join in an afternoon of music, food and learning.

January Lecture

Rabbi Robert Kirschner, Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, will speak at Sha'ar Zahav on Wednesday evening, January 22nd, at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Kirschner recently published an important Jewish work entitled "Responsa to the Holocaust." In his lecture, he will focus on modern interpretations of Jewish law.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Education Committee is seeking members interested in helping us to provide an audio-visual program for Sunday afternoons in January and February. We plan to utilize films and tapes available through the Jewish Community and San Francisco Public Libraries. This program is designed to provide both an educational and social function and can only be initiated with additional membership support. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Hertzberg at the CSZ office.

Winter Curriculum Planned

Registration forms will be included in the January *Forward* for the Winter Education Night Series of the Congregation. Classes will be held on *Tuesday* evenings, beginning on January 28th. Our format will be similar to the fall semester, with two classes to be taught by Rabbi Kahn. The third class will focus on Israel, with guest lecturers on various political, social and economic topics of interest.

Classified Ads

WANTED: Paid male companion needed for Alzheimer's Disease victim one to five hours weekly on Lake Street. Call 387-1825.

SURVIVING AND THRIVING: A women's chronic illness and disability group. Beginning in San Francisco in February on Wed. nights. For more information call either Nanci Stern at 863-5081 or Susan Browne at 431-2344.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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DINNER PARTY FOR 6/ALEX INGERSOL/DAVID STEIN
HOME BAKED APPLE PIE/SEN TALLEY
FOOT RUB AND CONSULTATION/ERIC KEITEL
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPH/NEIL HART
INTERIOR DESIGN CONSULTATION/RALPH FRISCHMAN/DAVID STEIN
CUSTOM MADE SHIRT/YORAM GAL
5 SPANISH LESSONS/ROSALINDA DE MORAL
OIL PAINTING/MARILYN HERTZBERG
SPECIAL EDITION OF S.F. BOOK/IRENE OGUS
SYMPHONY TICKETS FOR 2/DON ALBERT
CHALLAH FOR A MONTH OF SHABBATS/BILL ASHLEY DOBBIN
5 MORE SPANISH LESSONS/MIRTHA BEAL
POSITIVE THINKING HYPNOSIS SESSION/STEVE ELMAN
5 HOURS TORAH TUTORING/STEVE GREENBERG
FIRST COPY OF SHA'AR ZAHAV COOKBOOK/COOKBOOK PROJECT
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AN EVENING OF CHANUKAH CABARET

Saturday Evening December 7, 1985

8:00 pm - Midnight

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